The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*for Ad Te Levavi*

*December 3, 2023*

*Pray and confess aloud as much from the order of meditation and prayer, as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

**Catechesis Notes for the week** **– Psalm 102:1-13 – A Prayer for Those Weary of Sin –** The 102nd psalm is a psalm of prayer. In it the fathers of old – weary of laws, of sins, and of death – wholeheartedly yearn and call for the kingdom of grace promised in Christ. They ask that God yet again build up Zion and set in place her stones and dust, that He would yet again enter in and let His glory be seen in all kingdoms, that He would rescue His captives from sin and death so that they may come together and thank Him – that is, that they may worship Him in the true Zion – and the Old Testament come to an end. “For without Christ there is indeed nothing but strength broken in the middle of life and days cut short, that is, a miserable, short, wretched life from which the psalmist is reluctantly removed. But in His kingdom is eternal life, and His time has no end. He is the one who was before He created heaven and earth, and will again change and renew them. Therefore, He is outside of and over all time. His year has no end and there is no dying there. This kingdom we will gladly receive. May such a kingdom, Your kingdom, come! Amen.” From Reading the Psalms with Luther, CPH

***Invocation* -In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Verse:** Galatians 5:17 – For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

**Apostles’ Creed**

**Psalm of the Week: Psalm 102:1-13**

**Year II – New Testament Stories**

**Bible Readings for the Week**

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| Sunday | Ad Te Levavi Gospel – Matthew 21:1-9 |
| Monday | The Beginning of the Gospel According to St. Mark – Mark 1:1-13 |
| Tuesday | Jesus Begins His Public Ministry – Mark 1:14-20 |
| Wednesday | **Commemoration of St. Nicholas of Myra – Mark 10:13-16** |
| Thursday | The Signs of the Messiah – Mark 1:21-34 |
| Friday | Jesus Preaches in Galilee and Cleanses a Leper – Mark 1:35-45 |
| Saturday | Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralytic – Mark 2:1-12 |

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| **Catechism: 5th and 6th Petition of the Lord’s Prayer** | **Grades** |
| The Fifth Petition:  And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. | K+ |
| *What does this mean?*  We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us. | 1st+ |
| The Sixth Petition:  And lead us not into temptation. | K+ |
| *What does this mean?*  God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory. | 3rd+ |